Testing of Samples of mineral water companies

2400. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 68 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the samples taken from the Delhi Bisleri Company Limited were also tested in Industrial Toxicology Research Institute, Lucknow, and other similar Government laboratories;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to monitor the samples from Delhi Bisleri Company Limited from time to time and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The samples were tested in the Food Research and Analysis Centre (FRAC) which is located in Delhi and is a laboratory recognised by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for the purpose of testing packaged drinking water as per IS: 14543.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Transportation cost of sugar

2401. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments had represented to the Central Government for allowance of actual road transportation charges in respect of lifting of levy sugar under levy sugar price equalization fund scheme; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to alleviate the problems faced by transporters of sugar because of high cost of transportation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prior to 1.4.96, transportation charges were reimbursed on the basis of either (a) actual railway freight, or (b) actual transportation charges by road at the rate approved by the State Government limited to the rate of transportation charges approved by the FCI for transporting foodgrains in that State. Where the FCI rates were not available, the State Government rates were allowed limited to the actual railway freight. Where FCI rates and railheads were not available, the State Government rates were allowed.

Keeping in view the representations received from State Governments, the Central Government has revised the margin guidelines with effect from 1.4.96. As per the revised guidelines, the transportation charges are being reimbursed at a flat rate for each State to be fixed on the basis of audited figures of transportation charges duly approved by the State Government concerned, incurred for previous year.

Response on proposal for joint patrolling

2402. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the response of the Pakistan authorities, the US, Britain and other major interlocutors to the Indian proposal for joint Indo-Pak army patrolling on the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir and other borders to prevent infiltration of terrorists; and

(b) what steps have since been taken in the light thereof for de-escalation of military stand-off between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) PM had, during the CICA Summit in Almaty in June 2002, proposed Joint Patrolling along the LoC as a credible bilateral measure to curb cross border infiltration of Pakistan was sincere in its commitment to end cross border infiltration and terrorism.

For its own purposes Pakistan suggested that the proposal was not new and unlikely to work in the present environment.

Other countries, including the US and UK, recognising the context and terrain, have acknowledged that only specific measures worked out by India and Pakistan themselves could be effective.

(b) The President of Pakistan has made commitments on